

Circular Rail Between Hyderabad and Secunderabad

1535. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that the action taken on a suggestion to start circular Rail between Hyderabad and Secunderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): For developing a modern inter-modal transport system in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, a study has been sanctioned at the total cost of Rs. 10 lacs. The same is likely to be completed in the current year i.e. 2000-01. Matters regarding sanction and execution of the projects will be decided on receipt of the report.

Rail Service Between India and Bangladesh

1536. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Bangladesh are all set to resume direct rail service between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all formalities in this regard, including signing of a formal agreement, have been completed; and

(d) by when the service is likely to be inaugurated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Following four Railway links were operational between India and Bangladesh.

- Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge.
- Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge.

A fifth Direct Railway link between Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)-Broad Gauge for goods train services has also become operational recently.

(c) Working Agreement has been signed on 4.7.2000 between the Government of India through Ministry of Railways and the

Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Railways for restoration of Rail link between Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)-B.G. for goods trains services.

(d) Commercial notification has been issued by Railways for operationalising this route. Freight trains will run between Petrapole-Benapole as and when indents are received.

Regularising of Contract Employees in RITES

a0.25 1537. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) has absorbed/regularised the services of contract employees, both technical and non-technical;

(b) if so, how many such contract employees have been regularised/absorbed in RITES as on 3.6.2000;

(c) what procedure/criteria was adopted in regularizing their services; and

(d) whether these contract employees were subjected to written tests/interviews also and if so, the complete details of providing regular appointment to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last ten years, 267 contract employees had been regularised.

(c) and (d) The regular appointments to the contract employees are offered on completion of the prescribed length of service and based on special performance appraisal and performance in the interview before the duly constituted Selection Committee.

Decline in Performance of Trains

1538. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'on time' performance of trains of Indian Railways is declining;